

COUNTRY East Germany

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SUBJECT Shortage of P-2 Iron in East Germany

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1. The shortage of P 2 iron (aluminum-plated iron plates) for the radio tube industry was discussed at a meeting of the Fachkommission (Fako) fuer Elektronenroehren (Commission of Experts for Electron Tubes) held on 29 August 1952. It was decided to organize a four man collective responsible for the procurement of P 2 iron from Hanau. The collective was promised a special bonus if it succeeded in obtaining this material. The following cable was also sent to the Deputy Minister President Heinrich Rau: "The entire electron tube industry, radio tube industry, industry for measuring instruments, and industry for electro-acoustic apparatus will have to cease production unless 800 tons of P 2 iron can be procured immediately from West Germany. At least 15 percent of the powdered iron (Vakuumschmelze) must be imported from Hanau in order to meet the most urgent requirements."
2. So far, all attempts to meet the P 2 iron requirements in East Germany have been unsuccessful. The material supplied by the Auerhammer Plant is too hard. Therefore, the Berlin Metal Works and Metallurgical Plant in Berlin-Nieder-schoeneweide were assigned to experiment with the production of P 2 iron.
3. It was feared that the HF Plant (OSW) would experience considerable production difficulties in late September 1952, as sources for the urgently required supplies of P 2 iron have not yet been found.
4. The average stocks of P2 iron stored in the HF Plant in August 1952 were sufficient for only 12 days requirements.

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